CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Claims 1-23 (canceled).

Claim 24 (currently amended): ~~An~~ In combination, an installation tool ~~configured to deploy~~ and a fastener,

~~the~~ said fastener comprising a cylindrically shaped shaft, a bar ~~at a proximal end of said shaft~~ extending ~~radially~~ outwardly and distally from a proximal end of said shaft, and a fin extending outwardly and proximally from a proximal and blunt distal end of said shaft ~~proximate a rounded distal end of said shaft~~, said fin and said bar being in alignment with each other along a side of said shaft~~,~~; and

said installation tool comprising~~:~~ ~~an elongated inserter comprising~~ a tubular carrier portion configured to retain ~~the~~ said fastener and having at a distal end on one side thereof a sharpened distally directed edge defined by a sloping end surface, said carrier portion having an open side extending substantially throughout the length of the carrier portion and ~~adapted~~ configured to facilitate the extension therethrough of ~~end portions of~~ said bar and said fin.~~,~~, said carrier portion further ~~having~~ comprising floor and shoulder portions configured for abutment with bottom surface and the blunt proximal end surface portions, respectively, of ~~the~~ said cylindrically shaped

fastener when ~~the~~ said fastener is at rest in ~~the~~ said carrier portion and during deployment of ~~the~~ said fastener.

Claim 25 (currently amended): ~~An~~ In combination, a fastener, a fastener carrier, and an installation tool configured to deploy ~~a~~ said fastener and ~~a~~ said fastener carrier,

~~the~~ said fastener comprising a cylindrically shaped shaft, a bar ~~at a proximal end of said shaft~~ extending ~~radially~~ outwardly and distally from said shaft, and a fin extending outwardly and proximally from said shaft ~~proximate a rounded~~ proximal and blunt distal end ~~of said shaft~~, said fin and said bar being in alignment with each other along a side of said shaft,

~~the~~ said fastener carrier ~~comprising an elongated inserter~~ comprising a tubular carrier portion configured to retain ~~the~~ said fastener and having at a distal end on one side thereof a sharpened distally directed edge defined by a sloping end surface, said carrier portion having an open side extending substantially throughout the length of said carrier portion and ~~adapted~~ configured to facilitate the extension therethrough of ~~end portions of~~ said bar and said fin~~;~~, said carrier portion further ~~having~~ comprising floor and shoulder portions configured for abutment with bottom surface and the blunt proximal end surface portions, respectively, of ~~the~~ said cylindrically shaped fastener when the fastener is at rest in ~~the~~ said carrier portion and during deployment of ~~the~~ said fastener~~;~~, ~~the~~ said fastener

carrier being movable between a first position in said [tube] tubular carrier portion and a second position extended from a distal end of said [tube] tubular carrier portion, ~~the~~ said fastener carrier being configured to retain the fastener and having at a distal end thereof a sharpened edge configured to penetrate body tissue, said carrier portion having an open side ~~adapted~~ configured to facilitate the extension therethrough of ~~end portions of~~ said bar and said fin;

said installation tool comprising control means for moving the fastener carrier in said [tube] tubular carrier portion between the first and second positions;

said installation tool being manipulable to extend the fastener carrier and the fastener therein into the body of tissue, and to withdraw the fastener carrier from the tissue, whereupon said fin resists withdrawal of the fastener from the body, and the fastener remains in the tissue as said installation tool and the fastener carrier are withdrawn from the body.

Claims 26-38 (canceled).